

CHAPTER 7

GLOSSARY

These definitions apply to Forest Service land management and planning. Meanings may differ when used in another context. Glossary definitions are not legal unless otherwise noted. Definitions were shortened, paraphrased and adapted to fit local conditions and for ease of understanding.

A

Access	The opportunity to approach, enter, and make use of public lands.
Activity	A measure, course of action, or treatment that is undertaken to directly or indirectly produce, enhance, or maintain forest and rangeland outputs or achieve administrative or environmental quality objectives.
Adaptive Management	A type of natural resource management in which decisions are made as part of an ongoing process. Adaptive management involves testing, monitoring, evaluation, and incorporating new knowledge into management approaches based on scientific findings and the needs of society. Results are used to modify management policy.
Administrative Site	Lands used as headquarters or administrative facility by a Federal agency.
Adverse Effects (Heritage Resources)	Any effect on a heritage resource that would be considered harmful to those characteristics that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.
Affected Environment	The biological and physical environment that will or may be changed by actions proposed and the relationship of people to that environment.
Airshed	Geographical areas, which because of topography, meteorology, and climatic conditions, share the same air mass. Air is managed by airshed.
Alternative	A combination of management prescriptions applied in specific amounts and locations to achieve a desired management emphasis as expressed in goals and objectives. One of several

policies, plans, or projects proposed for decision-making. An alternative need not be substituted for another in all respects.

Ambient air

That air, external to buildings, encompassing or surrounding a specific region.

**Ambient Air
Quality Standard**

The prescribed level of pollutants in the outside air that cannot be exceeded legally during a specified time in a specified geographical area.

**Aquatic
Ecosystem**

A stream channel, pond or lake, including the water itself and the biotic communities that occur therein.

B

Benchmark

Reference points that define the bounds within which feasible management alternatives can be developed. Benchmarks may be defined by resource output or economic measures.

**Best
Management
Practices
(BMP's)**

Land management methods, measures or practices selected by an agency to meet its non-point source control needs. BMP's include, but are not limited to structural and nonstructural controls and operation and maintenance procedures. BMP's can be applied before, during and after pollution-producing activities to reduce or eliminate the introduction of pollutants into receiving waters. BMP's are selected on the basis of site-specific conditions that reflect natural background conditions and political, social, economic, and technical feasibility. BMP's are found in Forest Service Handbook 2509.22.

**Biological
Diversity**

The variety of life forms and processes, including the complexity of species, communities, gene pools, and ecological functions, within the area covered by a land management plan.

C

**Capital
Investment cost**

Costs generally associated with construction such as trails, roads, and physical structures.

CERCLA

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

C.F.R.

Code of Federal Regulations.

Channel

A waterway of perceptible extent that periodically or continuously contains moving water. It has definite bed and banks which serve to confine the water.

Class II area (Air)	Geographic area having air quality exceeding the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, which is designated for a moderate degree of protection from future air quality degradation. Moderate increases in new pollution may be permitted.
Coarse filter	An approach used for wildlife conservation management and analysis which focuses on the characteristics of entire ecosystems and landscapes. (See also "fine filter.")
Concessions	Private business permitted under a Special Use Permit on National Forest System lands.
Connectivity	The arrangement of habitats that allows organisms and ecological processes to move across the landscape. Patches of similar habitats are close together or linked by corridors of appropriate vegetation.
Conservation Assessment	The analysis and documentation of the current status and distribution of a species, species group, or ecosystem.
Conservation Strategy	The documentation of the management actions designed to conserve a species, species group or ecosystem
Corridor (transportation)	A linear strip of land defined for the present or future location of transportation or utility rights-of-way within its boundaries. For planning purposes, potential and proposed corridors are depicted on the Plan map to show approximate corridor routes and widths. Actual corridor routes and boundaries for new systems will be identified through site-specific transportation and/or utility project planning.
Cultural Resources	See Heritage Resources.
Cumulative Effects	See Effects.
Cumulative Impact	The impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

D

Decision Criteria	The rules, standards or guidelines used to evaluate alternatives. They are measurements or indicators that are designated to assist a decision maker in identifying a preferred choice from an array of possible alternatives.
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Demographic	Pertaining to the study of the characteristics of populations, such as size, growth, density, distribution, and vital statistics.
Desired Future Condition	The combination of desirable attributes to be attained in the future by management of a national forest, national grassland and/or national tallgrass prairie. For scenery management, desired future condition is comprised of interrelated components, including desired travelways, desired use areas, desired landscape character and desired scenic condition.
Desired Landscape Character	Appearance of the landscape to be retained or created over time, recognizing that a landscape is a dynamic and constantly changing community of plants and animals. Combination of landscape design attributes and opportunities, as well as biological opportunities and constraints.
Developed Recreation	That type of recreation that occurs where modifications (improvements) enhance recreation opportunities and accommodate intensive recreation activities in a defined area.
Distance Zones	Landscape areas denoted by specified distances from the observer. Used as a frame of reference in which to discuss landscape attributes or the scenic effect of human activities in a landscape.
Disturbance	A force or event that can change or maintain the structure and composition of vegetation, such as wind, fire, flooding, herbivores, or disease. Human actions (e.g., plowing, draining, burning, trampling) can cause disturbance. At a different scale, disturbance can also mean events or actions that alter the behavior of individual organisms. For example, visits to an active heron rookery by humans or potential predators are a disturbance that may cause herons to abandon nests.
Dolomite	Also called dolomitic limestone. A specific type of sedimentary rock, similar to limestone, but with much of the calcium carbonate replaced by magnesium carbonate. Most of the "limestone" bedrock of the lower Des Plaines River valley is really dolomite, deposited when this area was a sea floor, approximately 420 million years ago.
Dolomite Prairie	A type of prairie vegetation that develops on shallow soils (less than 18 inches deep) over dolomite bedrock. Dolomite prairie soils often have high levels of magnesium and are basic (high pH). Because of the shallow soils, moisture levels fluctuates between wet and dry extremes several times during the growing season.
Draft Environmental	The version of the statement of environmental effects required for major Federal actions under Section 102 of the National

Impact Statement (DEIS)	Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and released to the public and other agencies for review and comment.
Drain Tiles	A subsurface system of pipes or tubes that drain land by taking in water to discharge through an outlet downstream.
E	
Easement	An interest or right in land owned by another that entitles its holder to a specific limited use.
Ecosystem	A complete, interacting system of organisms considered together with their environment (for example; a marsh, a watershed, or a prairie).
Ecosystem Integrity	The completeness of an ecosystem that, at multiple geographic and temporal scales, maintains its characteristic diversity of biological and physical components, spatial patterns, structure, and functional processes within its approximate range of historic variability. These processes include disturbance regimes, nutrient cycling, hydrologic functions, vegetation succession, and species adaption and evolution. Ecosystems with integrity are resilient and capable of self-renewal in the presence of the cumulative effects of human and natural disturbance.
Ecotone	The boundary or transition zone between adjacent vegetation types or habitats. Some ecotones may create a narrow edge, (see edge species) while other ecotones may form a distinct landscape type intermediate between two adjacent types (e.g. savanna).
Ecosystem Management	The use of an ecological approach to land management to sustain diverse, healthy and productive ecosystems. Ecosystem management is applied at various scales to blend long-term societal and environmental values in a dynamic manner that may be modified through adaptive management.
Edge Species	Organisms that are adapted to take advantage of the boundaries between two habitat types (such as forest and field) or fragmenting features in large blocks of habitat (e.g., openings in forests, hedgerows in grasslands). Because such habitats can be relatively ephemeral, or are often small in size or relatively narrow in configuration, edge species are pre-adapted to take advantage of the human-altered landscapes that dominate in the Midwest. Nest predation may be relatively higher in certain edge habitats, because certain predators (e.g. raccoons, skunks) often follow edges as they forage.

Effects	<p>Direct. Results of an action occurring when and where that action takes place.</p> <p>Indirect. Results of an action occurring at a location other than where the action takes place and/or later in time, but in the reasonably foreseeable future.</p> <p>Cumulative. Results of collective past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.</p>
Effects (Heritage Resources)	Impacts to the characteristics that qualify a heritage resource for the National Register of Historic Places. These can include alterations in location, setting, use design, materials, feeling and association. Adverse effects include: a) physical destruction or damage, b) isolation from or alteration of setting, c) introduction of visual, audible or atmospheric elements, d) physical deterioration from neglect or from any action, and e) transfer, lease or sale.
EIS	See Environmental Impact Statement.
Emergent	A plant rooted in shallow water and having most of its vegetation above water (cattails).
Endangered Species	Any species of animal or plant that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Plant or animal species identified and defined in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act and published in the Federal Register.
Enhance	To improve, reinforce, enrich or strengthen the existing condition, value or beauty of a resource.
Environmental Analysis	An analysis of alternative actions and their predictable short- and long-term environmental effects, incorporating the physical, biological, economic, social and environmental design arts and their interactions.
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	A document prepared by a federal agency in which anticipated environmental effects of a planned course of action or development are evaluated. A federal statute (Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969) requires that such statements be prepared. It is prepared first in draft or review form, and then in a final form. An impact statement includes the following points: (1) the environmental impact of the proposed action, (2) any adverse impacts which cannot be avoided by the action, (3) the alternative courses of actions, (4) the relationships between local short-term use of the human environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, and (5) a description of the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources which would occur if the action were accomplished.
Equestrian	Having to do with horses and riders of horses.

Eradication (plant)	Complete kill or removal of a noxious plant from an area, including all plant structures capable of sexual or vegetative reproduction.
Erosion	The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice, gravity or other geological processes. Erosion can be initiated by natural or human actions.
Evaluation	A process for interpreting monitoring data and determining whether changes in management direction are warranted.
Existing Road System	All existing roads, owned or administered by various agencies, that are wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving national forests and national grasslands, or intermingled private lands (ref: FSM 7705.21). These roads may or may not be included on the current Forest Transportation Inventory, but are evident on the ground as meeting the definition of a road.
Existing Scenic Integrity	Current state of the landscape, considering previous human alterations.
Exotics/Exotic species	An organism that exists as wild populations in a region to which it is not native. Often in reference to a plant or animal species that has been translocated to a new region, either on purpose or by accident. Also referred to as non-native species.
Extinction	Disappearance of a species or other taxon of organisms from existence in all regions.
Extirpated	The elimination of a species from a particular area or portion of its range.
Extinction	Disappearance of a taxon of organisms from existence in all regions.
Extirpated	The elimination of a species from a particular area.

F

Facility	Structures needed to support the management, protection, and utilization of the National Forests, including buildings, utility systems, dams and other construction features. There are three types of facilities: recreation, administrative, and permitted.
Feasible	Capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, technical, and safety factors. In evaluating feasibility, the following are considerations: 1) the effectiveness and practicality of the measures being considered; and, 2) the long- and short-term costs of the measures and the effect of those

	costs on long-and short-term economic viability of projects or programs.
Fee Sites (Recreation)	A Forest Service recreational area where users must pay a fee. Fee sites must meet certain standards and provide certain facilities.
Fencerow	A spontaneous, linear grouping of trees and shrubs following fence lines or other linear features. (See Hedgerow)
Fine filter	An approach used for wildlife conservation management and analysis, which focuses on individual species and their habitat needs. (See also "coarse filter.")
Fiscal Year (FY)	October 1 to September 30. The Fiscal Year is referred to by the calendar year, which begins on January 1. For example, October 1, 1996 to September 30, 1997 is referred to as Fiscal Year 1997.
Flood plain	That portion of a river valley, adjacent to the river channel, which is covered with water when the river overflows its banks at flood stages in response to a 100-year storm event.
Forage	Vegetation used for food by wildlife and livestock, particularly ungulate wildlife and domestic livestock. Also refers to the action of searching for food by animals.
Forbs	A broad-leaved herbaceous plant, not a grass, fern, or woody plant. In the tallgrass prairie ecosystem, most herbaceous plants considered "wildflowers" are also forbs (e.g., coneflowers, prairie-clover, blazing-star, rattlesnake-master, prairie dock, and wild strawberry). However, not all forbs have conspicuous flowers (e.g., ragweed, nettle, lamb's-quarters).
Forest partly Development Trails	As defined in 36 C.F.R. 212.1 and 261.2, those trails wholly or within or adjacent to and serving national forests, national grasslands, and national prairies that have been included in the Forest Development Transportation Plan. A trail is a pathway for purposes of travel by foot, stock or trail vehicle.
Forest Development Transportation Plan	The plan for the system of access roads, trails and airfields needed for the protection, administration and utilization of the national forests, national grasslands and national prairies, or the development and use of resources upon which communities within or adjacent to National Forest System lands are dependent.
Fragmentation	An element of biological diversity that describes the natural condition of habitats in terms of the size of discrete habitat blocks or patches, their distribution, the extent to which they are interconnected, and the effects of management on these natural conditions. Also the process of reducing the size and connectivity

of open grasslands (e.g., a fence-row in an otherwise open pasture in which sensitive grassland birds are known to nest).

FSH Forest Service Handbook.

FSM Forest Service Manual.

Function A term in ecology referring to the interactions and influences between plant and animal species within an area (how each species uses its environment), and to natural processes of change or disturbance (such as wind or aging).

FY See Fiscal Year.

G

Game Species Any species of wildlife or fish for which seasons and bag limits have been prescribed, and which are normally harvested by hunters, trappers, and fishermen under state or federal laws, codes and regulations.

Geographic Information System (GIS) A spatial type of information management system that provides for the entry, storage, manipulation, retrieval and display of spatially orientated data.

Goal A concise statement that describes a desired future condition normally expressed in broad, general terms that are timeless, in that there is no specific date by which the goal is to be achieved.

Goods and Services The various outputs, including onsite uses, produced by forest and rangeland renewable resources.

Graminoids Grass-like herbaceous plants, usually with narrow, relatively long leaves. Roots and growing points of graminoids are at or below the soil surface, thus many graminoids are adapted to survive fire and grazing. Graminoids include grasses, sedges, and rushes.

Grassland Land on which dominant plant forms are grasses and forbs.

Grazing The act of animals consuming plants on range or pasture.

Groundwater Water within the earth that supplies wells and springs. Specifically, water in the zone of saturation where all openings in soils and rocks are filled; the upper surface level forms the water table.

Guideline A preferred or advisable course of action or level of attainment designed to promote achievement of goals and objectives.

H

Habitat	The sum total of environmental conditions of a specific place occupied by a wildlife or plant species or a population of each species.
Habitat Capability	The estimated maximum number of fish or wildlife that can be supported by the amount and distribution of suitable habitat in an area.
Harvest	Refers to the total quantity of wildlife or wildlife products (e.g., individuals, pelts, eggs) removed from free-living populations during a single season. Also can refer to the act of removing wildlife or wildlife products (e.g. deer harvest).
Hedgerow	A linear grouping of shrubs or trees, originally planted to divide fields or contain livestock.
Heritage Resources	The physical remains of districts, sites, structures, buildings, networks, events, or objects used by humans in the past. They may be historic, prehistoric, architectural, or archival in nature. Heritage resources are non-renewable aspects of our national heritage.
Historic Property	Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places. The term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties.
Hydric Soil	A soil that is saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions that favor the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation.

I

IDNR	Illinois Department of Natural Resources.
IDT	See Interdisciplinary Team
Implementation	Those activities necessary to initiate the actions in the approved land and resource management plan.
Improvements	Includes any structures of a permanent nature placed upon the land, which tend to increase its value.
Infrastructure	The facilities, utilities, and transportation systems needed to meet public and administrative needs.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)	A process for selecting strategies to regulate pests in which all aspects of a pest-host system are studied and weighed. A basic principle in the choice of a strategy (or strategies) is that it reduces or eliminates risks to non-target organisms.
Interdisciplinary Team (IDT)	A group of individuals with different training assembled to solve a problem or perform a task. The team is assembled out of recognition that no one scientific discipline is sufficiently broad to adequately solve the problem. Through interaction, participants bring different points of view and a broader range of expertise to bear on the problem.
Interpretive Services	Visitor information services designed to inform and educate national forest, national grasslands and national prairie visitors in order to improve their understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of national forest, national grassland and national prairie resources.
Introduction	The conscious release of a non-native organism for the purpose of establishing a free-living population outside of the organism's native range.
Invasive Plant	A plant species that through rapid growth and spread can change or damage native habitats and organisms. Invasive plants can also alter soil structure and hydrologic processes, effect human health and safety, or cause economic damage. Most invasive plants are non-native (exotic) for the region in which they are threats. Non-native plants often become invasive because they have been freed from natural controls left behind in their place of origin. Some native plants can become invasive when a natural process, such as fire, is suppressed. See Noxious Weeds.
IPM	See Integrated Pest Management.
Irretrievable Commitments	Applies to losses of production or use of renewable natural resources for a period of time. The production lost is irretrievable, but the action is not irreversible.
Irreversible Commitments	Decisions causing changes which cannot be reversed. Often applies to nonrenewable resources such as minerals and cultural resources.
Issue	A point, matter, or section of public discussion or interest to be addressed or decided.

K

L

Land allocation	The decision to use land for various resource management objectives to best satisfy the issues, concerns and opportunities and meet assigned forest output targets.
Land Exchange	The conveyance of non-Federal land or interests to the United States in exchange for National Forest System land or interests in land.
Landscape Character	Particular attributes, qualities, and traits of a landscape that give it an image and make it identifiable or unique.
Landscape Visibility	Accessibility of the landscape to viewers, referring to one's ability to see and perceive landscapes.
Lead Agency	The agency or agencies preparing or having taken the primary responsibility for preparing an environmental impact statement.
Lease	An authorization (usually long-term) to possess and use public lands for a fixed period of time.
Listed Species	Any species of fish, wildlife, or plant officially designated as endangered or threatened by the Secretary of the Interior or Commerce.
Litter	A surface layer of loose organic debris consisting of freshly fallen or slightly decomposed organic materials.
Livestock	Domestic animals.
LRMP	Land and Resource Management Plan

M

Maintenance	The upkeep of land, property or equipment.
Management Area	Lands having common Management direction.
Management Concern	An issue, problem or a condition, which constrains the range of management practices identified by the Forest Service in the planning process.
Management Direction	A statement of multiple-use and other goals and objectives, the associated land use prescriptions, and standards and guidelines for attaining them.

Management Indicators	Plant or animal species, communities, or special habitats selected for emphasis in planning, and which are monitored during prairie plan implementation to assess the effects of management activities on their populations and the populations of other species with similar habitat needs which they may represent.
Management Practices	The activities applied to a defined area of land to obtain multiple-use and other goals and objectives.
Management Prescription	Management practices and intensity selected and scheduled for application on a specific area (e.g., a land use designation) to attain multiple-use and other goals and objectives.
Management Requirement	Standards for resource protection, vegetation manipulation, riparian areas, soil and water diversity, to be met in accomplishing National Forest System goals and objectives. (See 36 C.F.R. 219.17)
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	An agreement between the Forest Service and other agencies resulting from consultation between agencies that states specific measures the agencies will follow to accomplish a large or complex project. A memorandum of understanding is not a fund-obligating document.
Mesic Prairie	A subclass of Typic Prairie that retains sufficient soil moisture throughout the year (i.e., plants rarely wild or show drought-stress), is fairly well drained, and does not flood.
Mitigate	To lessen or make minimal the severity. For cultural resources, to lessen or minimize an adverse affect upon a cultural resource listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The two categories of mitigation most often used are project modification and data recovery.
MNTP	Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie
Monitoring	Gathering information and observing results of management activities to provide a bass for the periodic evaluation of the Prairie Plan.
Multiple-use	The management of all the various renewable surface resources of the National Forest System so that they are used in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people; harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources.

N

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)	An act declaring a National policy to encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment, to promote the effects which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment, to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and the biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man, to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality.
National Forest Management Act (NFMA)	A law passed in 1976 that amends the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act and requires the preparation of Forest Plans.
National Forest System (NFS) Land	Federal lands that have been designated by Executive order or statute as National Forests, National Grasslands, National Tallgrass Prairie, or other lands under the administration of the Forest Service.
National Register of Historic Places	A register of cultural resources of national, state, or local significance, maintained by the Department of the Interior.
Native Species	A plant or animal indigenous to a particular locality.
Net Public Benefit	The overall long-term value to the Nation of all outputs and positive effects (benefits) less all associated inputs and negative effects (costs) whether they can be quantitatively valued or not. Net public benefits are measured by both quantitative and qualitative criteria rather than a single measure or index.
No Action Alternative (Alternative 1)	An alternative that maintains established trends or management direction.
No Adverse Effect (Heritage Resources)	When the effect on a cultural resource would not be considered harmful to those characteristics that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register.
Nonmarket Value	Products derived from National Forest resources that do not have a well-established monetary (market) value, for example, wilderness, and wildlife. (Noncash economic benefits.)
Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS)	Unlike point sources of water pollution, nonpoint sources are diffuse and can come from any land area. Nonpoint sources of water pollution originates from many undefinable sources such as agricultural and urban runoff, runoff from construction activities,

and runoff from forestry practices. Nonpoint source pollutants are generally carried over or through the soil and ground cover via storm flow processes. The following activities are potential nonpoint sources of pollution; prescribed burning, pest and fire control, surface drainage, and road construction and maintenance from which there is natural runoff. Best Management Practices are recognized as control mechanisms for nonpoint source pollution.

Notice of Intent	Means a notice that an environmental impact statement will be prepared and considered. The notice briefly describes the proposed action and possible alternatives, the agency's scoping process, and the address and name of the agency to contact regarding questions about the proposed action and the environmental impact statement.
Noxious Weeds	Those plant species designated as weeds by federal or state laws. Noxious weeds generally possess one or more of the following characteristics: aggressive and difficult to manage, poisonous, toxic, parasitic, a carrier or host for serious insects or diseases, and generally non-native.
O	
Objectives	The precise steps to be taken and the resources to be used in achieving goals.
Outputs	The measurable goods, end products, or services purchased consumed or utilized directly by people. Outputs are goods, services, products and concerns produced by activities that are measurable and capable of being used to determine the effectiveness of programs and activities in meeting objectives. A broad term used to describe any result, product or service that a process or activity actually produces.
P	
Palustrine Wetlands	Includes all wetlands not in stream channels or large lakes, usually with vegetation. Includes marshes, bogs, floodplains, forests, and wet prairies
Plan Period	The period of time a Prairie Plan is in effect, normally 10 years, but no longer than 15 years.
Planning Area	The area of the National Forest System controlled by a decision document.

Planning Horizon	The overall time period considered in the planning process that spans all activities covered in the analysis or plan and all future conditions and effects of proposed actions, which would influence the planning decisions.
Planning Period	Generally one decade. The time interval within the planning horizon that is used to show incremental changes to yields, costs, effects and benefits.
Planning Records	A system that records decisions and activities that result from the process of developing a Prairie Plan, revision, or significant amendment.
Plant Communities	An assemblage of plants that, in general, occur together on similar site conditions.
Point Source (Pollution)	A point at which pollution is added to a system, either instantaneously or continuously. An example is a smokestack.
Population	The actual number of animals or plants present in an area at a certain time that share a common gene pool.
Population Viability	Probability that a population will persist for a specified period of time across its range despite normal fluctuations in population and environmental conditions.
Prairie	A tract of land that is dominated by native grasses and forbs has few shrubs and has no trees. The natural plant community consists of various mixtures of tallgrass, mid-grass and short-grass plant species.
Prairie Plan	Source of management direction specifying activity and output levels for a period of 10-15 years. Management direction in the plan is based on the issues identified at the time of the plan's development.
Preferred Alternative	The alternative recommended for implementation as the Prairie Plan based on the evaluation completed in the planning process.
Prescribed Burning	Controlled application of fire to wildland fuels in either their natural or modified state, under specified environmental conditions, that allows the fire to be confined to a predetermined area and, at the same time, to produce the fireline intensity rate of spread required to attain planned resource management objectives.
Prescribed Fire	A fire burning within a prescription, resulting from planned or unplanned ignition.

Present Net Value (PNV)	The difference between the discounted value (benefits) of all outputs to which monetary values or established market prices are assigned and the total discounted costs of managing the planning area.
Preservation	A technique of conservation which maintains the resource in or on the ground in perpetuity.
Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement	The document disclosing the environmental consequences of a program or plan, which guides or prescribes the use of resources, allocates resources, or establishes rules and policies in contrast to disclosure of the environmental consequences of a site-specific project.
Project	One or more site-specific activities designed to accomplish a specific on-the-ground purpose or result.
Public Involvement	A Forest Service process designed to broaden the information base upon which agency decisions are made by 1) informing the public about Forest Service activities, plans and decisions, and 2) encouraging public understanding about the participation in the planning processes that lead to final decision-making.
Public Issue	A subject or question of widespread public interest identified through public participation relating to management of National Forest System lands, including national grasslands and prairies.
Public Participation	Meetings, conferences, seminars, workshops, tours, written comments, responses to survey questionnaires, and similar activities designed and held to obtain comments from the public about Forest Service planning.
Q	
R	
Rare Communities	A ranking system used by The Nature Conservancy in accordance to their relative endangerment. Community types are ranked on a global, national, and state scale of 1 to 5. A rank of G1 (Global 1) indicates that a community type is critically imperiled globally to rarity, endemism, and/or threats, and a rank of G5 indicates little to no risk of global elimination. Similar definitions apply to national and state rankings.
Recovery	The process of recovering from degraded conditions.
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)	A system for planning and managing recreation resources that categorizes recreation opportunities into three classes. Each class is defined in terms of the degree to which it satisfies certain recreation experience needs based on the extent to which the

natural environment has been modified, the type of facilities provided, the degree of outdoor skills needed to enjoy the area and the relative density of recreation use. The three classes are:

Semi-Primitive. This ROS class represents an area with the lowest level of development, highest opportunity for solitude, and the greatest opportunity to escape from the sights and sounds of humans. The environment would appear natural. New facility development would be minimal and rarely noticeable. Only foot traffic would be permitted in these areas. The visitor would likely experience a moderate-high feeling of self-reliance with moderate-opportunities for challenge. An example of an area that might fall within this ROS class might be a hiking trail or natural area with no trails.

Roaded Natural. This ROS class represents a moderate level of development and moderate to high social interaction within a modified physical setting that is not dominated by evidence of humans. New facilities are minimal, subtle and in harmony with the natural environment. The environment may be modified but would appear natural. Automobile and road access would be acceptable in these areas. The visitor would likely experience a moderate-high feeling of safety with relatively low opportunities for challenge. An example of an area that might fall within this ROS class might be a bicycle or equestrian trail system.

Rural. This ROS class represents Midewin's highest level of development, social interaction, and evidence of human influences within the most modified physical setting. New facilities are in harmony with the natural environment and automobile and road access would be acceptable in these areas. Hunting would not be allowed due to the concentration of people. The visitor would likely experience a high feeling of safety with low opportunity for challenge. And example of an area that might fall within this ROS class would be a visitor center or primary access area.

**Recreation
Visitor Day
(RVD)**

A measure of recreation use of an area. One recreation visitor day consists of 12 hours of recreation use of a site or area. Recreation visitor days are used to measure recreation production or output capacity.

Recruitment

The influx of new members into a population by reproduction or immigration.

Rehabilitation

Actions taken to protect or enhance site productivity, water quality, or other values for a short period of time.

Remnant

A patch of tract of the original native vegetation that has survived destruction or degradation, while most of the surrounding natural vegetation has been lost. Also native vegetation remnant.

Remnant dependent	Animals or plants that require tracts of the original native vegetation for survival. This is often because they are dependent upon interactions with other species present only in remnants, such as food plants (for many insects) or pollinators (for wild orchids and other plants). Remnant-dependent species are usually absent from habitats that may be superficially similar to native vegetation (e.g., abandoned fields and tall warm-season grass plantings), but lack the full compliment of interacting species.
Responsible Official Restoration	<p>The Forest Service employee who has the delegated authority to make a specific decision.</p> <p>Holistic actions taken to modify an ecosystem to achieve desired, healthy, and functioning conditions and processes. Generally refers to the process of enabling the system to resume its resiliency to disturbances. Restoration also refers to the process of re-establishing wild populations of a given native species in an area from which it has been eliminated.</p>
RFSS	Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List
Rhizomatous	Plants possessing rhizomes; rhizomes are laterally spreading, underground stems that give rise to new plants. Rhizomatous plant species often form large colonies that actually consist of one or few genetic individuals. Many prairie grasses and forbs are rhizomatous (e.g. prairie cordgrass, western sunflower) as are certain invasive species (e.g., reed canary grass).
Right-of-Way	An easement, license, or permit to pass through another person's land. It does not grant an estate of any kind, only the right to use.
Riparian Area	Areas of the aquatic and riparian ecosystems with distinctive resource values and characteristics that are geographically delineated (FSM 2526). Ecological units with distinctive vegetation, landform, soil and water regimes consisting of the aquatic ecosystem and wet-to-moist areas located between aquatic ecosystems and adjacent terrestrial ecosystems. They include floodplains and wetlands. Riparian ecosystems are distinguished by soil characteristics and distinctive existing or potential vegetation communities that are adapted to soils with consistently high levels of moisture.
Riparian Corridor	The flood plain and associated riparian soils, vegetation, and wetlands.
Riparian Ecosystem	Land next to water where plants that are dependent on a perpetual source of water occur.
ROD	Record of Decision

ROS See Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

RPA Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act.
RPA The RPA Assessment is prepared every ten years and describes
Assessment the potential of the nation's forests and rangelands to provide a
and Program sustained flow of goods and services. The RPA program is
 prepared every five years to chart the long-term course of Forest
 Service management of the National Forests, National
 Grasslands, National Prairies, assistance to State and private
 landowners, and research. They are prepared in response to
 Sections 3 and 4 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable
 Resources Planning Act of 1974 (RPA) (16 U.S.C. 1601).

S

Savanna A grassland with scattered trees, either as individuals or clumps;
 canopy closure is usually <50%. The understory is often open,
 and dominated by grasses and forbs. In the Midwest, periodic
 fires are essential to maintain savanna structure and composition.
 Savannas are often considered a transitional type (ecotone)
 between true grassland and forest.

Scenery General appearance of a place, general appearance of a
 landscape, or features of landscape.

Scenery The art and science of arranging, planning, and designing
Management landscape attributes relative to the appearance of place and
 expanses in outdoor settings.

Scenic The scenic importance of a landscape based on human
Attractiveness perceptions of the intrinsic beauty of landform, rockform,
 waterform, and vegetation pattern. Reflects varying visual
 perception, attributes of variety, unity, vividness, intactness,
 coherence, mystery, uniqueness, harmony, balance, and pattern.
 It is classified as:
 A – Distinctive.
 B – Typical or Common.
 C – Undistinguished.

Scenic Class A system of classification describing the importance or value of a
 particular landscape or portions of that landscape.

Scenic Integrity State of naturalness, or, conversely, the state of disturbance
 created by human activities or alteration. Integrity is stated in
 degrees of deviation from the existing landscape character in a
 national forest, national grassland, and/or national tallgrass
 prairie.

Scenic Quality	The essential attributes of landscape that when viewed by people, elicit psychological and physiological benefits to individuals and, therefore, to society in general.
Scoping	Determination of the significant issues to be addressed in an environmental impact statement.
Sedge meadow	A wetland habitat dominated by grass-like plants (graminoids) called sedges. The soils in sedge meadows are usually saturated throughout the year. Periodic fire is an important disturbance factor that prevents invasion of sedge meadows by willows and other woody plants.
Sediment	Solid material, both mineral and organic, that is in suspension, is being transported, or has been moved from its site of origin by air, water, gravity, or ice and has come to rest on the earth's surface.
Seep	A wetland created where groundwater reaches to the surface in a diffuse flow. The vegetation of seeps may consist of sedges, rushes, or shrubs; some seeps are shaded by surrounded by surrounding trees. Seeps provide a unique habitat for certain invertebrates and plants. Seeps are unlike springs, which are usually characterized by water flowing from an orifice.
Sensitive Species	Plant or animal species which are susceptible or vulnerable to habitat alterations or management activities resulting in a viability concern for the species long-term persistence. Sensitive species may be those species under consideration for official listing as endangered or threatened species, that are on an official state list, or that are recognized by the Regional Forester as needing special consideration to assure viable populations and to prevent their being placed on Federal or state lists.
SHPO	See State Historic Preservation Officer.
Shuttle	A vehicle that transports visitors from one location to another.
Soil Conservation Practices	Practices that are mechanisms used to protect soil quality while managing for other resource goals and objectives. They can be administrative, preventive or corrective measures. They are identified during project planning and design.
Soil Drainage	The rapidity and extent of the removal of water from the soil, in relation to additions, especially by surface runoff and by flow through the soil to underground spaces.
Special Use Authorization	A permit, term permit, temporary permit, lease, or easement that allows occupancy or use of, or rights and privileges on National Forest System lands.

Special Use Permit	Permits and granting easements (excluding road permits and highway easements) authorizing the occupancy and use of the land.
Species	A group of potentially interbreeding populations that are reproductively isolated from other such groups.
Species at Risk	Plant and animal species currently protected under the Endangered Species Act.
Species Diversity	A measurement that relates the density of individuals of a species in a habitat to the number of different species present in the habitat. The number of different kinds of species in a given habitat.
Standard	A course of action or level of attainment required by the prairie plan to promote achievement of goals and objectives.
State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) Stewardship	The official appointed or designated pursuant to Section 101(b)(1) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, to administer the State Historic Preservation Program. Caring for land and associated resources and passing healthy ecosystems to future generations.
Stochastic	"The probability of a random event."
Structure	A term in ecology referring to the arrangement of plant communities or ecosystems across a landscape and how they are connected, and to variations in grass heights.
Sustainability	The ability for the continuation of a desired level of productivity, quality or variability, generally of organisms.
Successional vegetation	Vegetation that is allowed to develop on a site after disturbance or use (agriculture) has removed the previous vegetation. In northeastern Illinois, successional vegetation often consists of a mix of native and non-native invasive plants.
Swale	A small valley or drainage route with perceptible slope and drainage but no defined channel. In the natural landscape, swales usually drain small watersheds and commonly supported wetlands.

T

TES	Threatened and/or Endangered Species
Threatened Species	A plant or animal species likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Threatened species are identified and defined in

accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act and published in the Federal Register.

Threshold	The point of level of activity beyond which an undesirable set of responses begins to take place within a given resource system.
Tiering	Elimination of repetitive discussions of the same issue by incorporating by reference the general discussion in an environmental impact statement of broader scope. For example, a project environmental assessment could be tiered to the Prairie Plan EIS.
Tract	A defined area of land.
Trail	The general term denoting a way for purposes of travel by foot, stock or bicycle.
Trailhead	The parking, signing, and other facilities available at the terminus of a trail.
Tram	See Shuttle.
Travel Order	A travel management decision issued by the responsible official to restrict, prohibit or allow the use of a described area or facility to entry or mode of travel.
Typic Prairie	Native prairie occurring on fine textured soils such as silt, clay, and sandy loams derived primarily from loess or glacial till. Soils are relatively deep (18 inches to bedrock).

U

Undesirable Species	Species that conflict with or do not contribute to the management objectives.
Unfragmented	The process of re-establishing connectivity and increasing the size of contiguous open grasslands. (See fragmentation).
Ungulate	A hoofed animal, including ruminants (such as cattle, but also horses, deer, elk and bison).
Upland	Not immediately adjacent to a stream; not a wetland (See Wetland)
Utility Corridors	Utility rights-of-way designated as corridors.

V

Vegetation	The plant cover of an area or region.
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Vegetation Treatment	Any activities undertaken to modify or maintain the existing condition of the vegetation (Vegetative management).
Viable Population	For prairie planning purposes a fish, wildlife, or plant population which has the estimated number and distribution of reproductive individuals to insure its continued existence is well distributed in the National Tallgrass Prairie.
Viability	The likelihood of continued existence of a population or species in an area for some specified period of time.

W

Watershed	The area that contributes water to a drainage or stream. Portion of the prairie in which all surface water drains to a common point. Watersheds can range from tens of acres that drain a single small intermittent stream to many thousands of acres for a stream that drains hundreds of connected intermittent and perennial streams.
Watershed Integrity	The expression of ecological integrity at the scale of the watershed (see ecological integrity). Same as watershed health.
Watershed Management	The outcome of all human activities affecting the subject land and resources of a watershed.
Weed	Any plant growing where unwanted and having a negative value.
Wetland Communities	Plant communities that occur on sites with soils typically saturated with or covered with water most of the growing season.
Wetlands	Areas that are inundated by surface or ground water with a frequency sufficient, under normal circumstances, to support a prevalence of vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Wetlands generally include marshes, potholes, river overflows, mud flats, wet meadows, seeps, springs, fens, and sedge meadows.
Wet prairie	Native, restored, or reconstructed prairie vegetation on hydric soils. Wet prairies usually have soils saturated or inundated for a sufficient portion of the year to qualify as wetlands, but the soils may be fairly dry in late summer and fall.
Wildfire	Any wildland fire not designated or managed as a prescribed fire within an approved prescription. All wildfires will be given an appropriate suppression action.

Woodland

In general, land that is covered with woody vegetation (trees). In the Midwest, native woodlands are usually dominated by oaks, and have a fairly open understory dominated by shrubs, grasses, and forbs. Periodic fires favor regeneration of oaks and discourage invasion by non-native woody plants.

X**Y****Z**